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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS SUPPORTS MAJOR WEAPONS SWEEP BY STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS CALLED "OPERATION DISARM"

LOS ANGELES –Supervisor Ridley-Thomas hailed "Operation Disarm", which was a major sweep conducted today by multiple law enforcement agencies, and which served over 330 parole search warrants in an effort to monitor parolees who had been convicted of weapons-related charges.

The Supervisor joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sheriff Lee Baca, Chief Charlie Beck and many other law enforcement officials in reviewing and monitoring the results of the wide-ranging sweep.

"I believe it's critically important that we support all branches of law enforcement, particularly when they work together such as they have today, to make sure that those parolees who have been convicted of gun-related violations have not resumed the behaviors that put them into situations where they may become a serious risk to public safety," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

"While I strongly support monitoring efforts such as Operation Disarm, I am reminded that thousands of parolees who have turned their lives around and are committed to becoming productive members of society need our assistance in gaining access to training and employment opportunities so that they can reach their full potential in life," the Supervisor added.